



S/N 09/031,326

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Joseph J. Karniewicz
Serial No.: 09/031,326
Filed: February 26, 1998
Title: PARAMETER POPULATION OF CELLS OF A HIERARCHICAL SEMICONDUCTOR STRUCTURE VIA FILE RELATION

Examiner: Thai Phan
Group Art Unit: 2123
Docket: 303.376US1

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on October 4, 2002, and the patents cited therein.

No claims are amended, canceled, or are added; as a result, claims 1 - 25 are now pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robinson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,524,244) in view of Ho (U.S. Patent No. 6,421,814).

Robinson 5,524,244

The Robinson et al patent relates to a system for dividing a processing task into tasks for a programmable real-time signal processor (SPROC) and tasks for a decision making microprocessor. The system is described as being programmed in a manner requiring entry of nothing more than a block diagram of a user's design. The patent discusses a SPROC cells Function Library that "contains over fifty predefined functions which can be used through the graphical interface of the SPROC development system" (col 36, lines 43 - 45).

While the Robinson et al patent may show that the SPROC cells are "design cells" useful for putting multiple instances of themselves in a circuit design with certain variations based on file association, it does not show how the programmable "design cells" themselves may be created from abstract geometric shapes - i.e. the "geometric variables relating to a physical layout" called for in amended claim 1 and discussed in Applicant's patent specification.